(ii) Details of the six spice parks:

Sl. No	District & State	Name of the spice
1	Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh	dehydrated garlic and green chilli extract
2	Idukki, Kerala	cardamom and pepper
3	Erode, Tamilnadu	turmeric
4	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	chillies
5	Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh	mint and mint products
6	Kota/Jalore, Rajasthan	coriander, cumin, fennel and fenugreek

Failure of AEZs

1073. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six years after their inception not even one of the 60 approved Agri-Export Zones(AEZs), precursors to today's dedicated export zones, has taken off as per the Ministry's plans;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the review by the Ministry last year has revealed that the zones had missed their export targets and investments were only half of the originally estimated Rs. 1,700 crore and not a single zone is active; and

(c) if so, whether Government have tried to investigate to find out reasons for failure of AEZs and the action proposed to make them a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The AEZ, have shown mixed result. Some of the AEZ, have done well while others have not. These AEZs have crystallized an investment of Rs. 866.40 crore and exports of Rs. 5649.14 crore over the last five years against an envisaged investment of Rs. 1717. 95 crore and export of Rs. 11821.47 crore.

(c) A peer evaluation of the AEZs was carried out with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in their performance and to suggest a remedial action plan. The review revealed that the AEZ were not able to make headway, mainly, owing to lack of:

(i) proactive push either by the State Government or by the Central Government or by their agencies to implement schemes in the AEZs;

(ii) project orientation in their conceptual design;

(iii) awareness amongst the field functionaries about the concept of AEZs ;

(iv) effective agency to coordinate with other implementing agencies and monitor the performance of the AEZs; and

(v) effective public participation.

The main elements of the remedial action plan are setting up of institutional administrative mechanism for coordinating and monitoring the progress of implementation of AEZs and short listing of a few AEZs for special focus.

Effect of unrestricted export of iron ore

1074. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that iron ore from India is being exported unrestrictedly, thus leading to a huge gap between demand and supply in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the demand for steel within the country is increasing;

(c) what steps Government are planning to take to regulate export of iron ore from the country; and

(d) if so, the time frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Even after exporting iron ore surplus after meeting domestic demand, there are still surpluses left.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government permits export of iron ore with iron content upto 64% without canalization. While export of iron ore with more than 64% iron content is canalized through MMTC Ltd., Government permits export of iron of iron ore fines with more than 64% iron content against licence by private mine owners/ leaseholders. Government has also imposed export duty on iron ore fines of iron content 62% and below @ Rs. 50 per metric tonne and on iron ore fines with iron content above 62% and on iron ore lumps @ Rs. 300 per tonne *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007.

Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. The surplus iron ore fines, produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating of lumpy ore is being evacuated through exports as there is less demand for it from the domestic steel industry.

Effect of duty free import of vegetable oil on Indian industries

†1075. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an import duty on raw palm oil, whereas vegetable oil imported from Sri Lanka and Nepal is completely duty free;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.